

Claims

1. An apparatus for selectively barring or securing a hinged door or window against being pivoted from a closed or partially closed position to an open position, the door or window having at least one hinge and having a latch bolt or dead bolt adapted to operatively secure the door or window to a jamb when in the closed position, the jamb having a strike plate capable of being secured or mounted to the jamb generally adjacent to the latch bolt or dead bolt when the door or window is in the closed position, the strike plate having a bolt hole, aperture or recess into which a portion of the latch bolt or dead bolt may be received, the strike plate having at least one hole or aperture through which a screw, bolt, nail, pin, rivet or weld may pass to secure or mount the strike plate to the jamb, said apparatus comprising a combination of:
 - (a) an elongated first bracket having a proximal end and an opposed distal end, said first bracket having at least one strike plate hole, aperture, loop, orifice or slot positioned near said proximal end thereof through or into which at least a portion of the screw, bolt, nail, pin, rivet or weld is capable of passing to secure the proximal end of the first bracket to the jamb, at least a portion of said distal end of said first bracket extending outwardly away from the jamb and the strike plate; and
 - (b) a barrier or stop element capable of selectively and removably engaging said first bracket near said distal end thereof to at least partially block pivotal movement of the door or window relative to the strike plate when the door or window is in the closed or partially closed position and said barrier or stop element operatively engages said first bracket.
2. The apparatus of claim 1, wherein the barrier or stop element includes a serial plurality of loops in a cord or cable, a first end of the barrier or stop element being attached to a cylindrical L-shaped rod, the rod being adapted to be passed through one of the plurality of loops to form a larger loop that

encircles a fixture attached to the door or window, the rood then being engaged with the elongated first bracket.

3. The apparatus of claim 1, wherein said first bracket has at
5 least one barrier hole, aperture, loop, orifice or slot positioned near said distal end thereof through or into which at least a portion of said barrier or stop element may be selectively inserted and retained.

10 4. The apparatus of claim 1, wherein the hole in the elongated first bracket is vertical.

5. The apparatus of claim 4, wherein the vertical hole has a triangular cross-section.

15 6. The apparatus of claim 5, wherein the upper and lower ends of the vertical hole are tapered.

7. The apparatus of claim 5, wherein the vertical cylinder is
20 retained by a horizontal pin.

8. The apparatus of claim 1, wherein the first bracket is held by a plurality of fasteners.

25 9. The apparatus of claim 8, wherein the plurality of fasteners include two subpluralities of fasteners, a first subplurality being used closer to a door stop attached to the jamb, and a second subplurality being used farther from the door stop, the fasteners in the first subplurality being larger than
30 the fasteners in the second subplurality.

10. The apparatus of claim 9, wherein the fasteners in the first and second subpluralities are difficult to remove once they are attached.

35 11. The apparatus of claim 1, wherein the barrier or stop element includes a vertical cylindrical rod.

12. The apparatus of claim 11, wherein the cylindrical rod has an engagement means at its lower end.

13. The apparatus of claim 11, wherein the cylindrical rod is
5 L-shaped.

14. The apparatus of claim 13, wherein the upper end of the L-shaped rod includes means to limit the angle by which the L-shaped rod can swing relative to the cylindrical rod.

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15. The apparatus of claim 11, wherein the vertical rod has an extension at its upper end, the extension being toward the door.

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16. The apparatus of claim 15, wherein the vertical rod includes a biased element to retain the vertical position of the vertical rod in the engaged position.

17. The apparatus of claim 11, wherein the first bracket has an upper U-shaped portion to retain the vertical cylinder.

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18. The apparatus of claim 17, wherein the U-shaped portion is corrugated or flared to strengthen the U-shaped portion.

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19. The apparatus of claim 11, wherein the cylindrical rod has a projection that follows a path in the first bracket.

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20. The apparatus of claim 1, wherein said barrier or stop element comprises a rigid or semi-rigid object which can be quickly and easily removed from engagement with the first bracket.

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21. The apparatus of claim 20, wherein said barrier or stop element comprises a bar, bolt, padlock, pin, carabineer, clip, snap, snap shackle, shackle, hook, piton or screwdriver which is capable of being at least partially inserted into said first barrier hole, aperture or loop to at least partially block pivotal movement of the door or windows relative to the strike plate when the door or window is in the closed or partially

closed position.

22. The apparatus of claim 1, further comprising an elongated second bracket having a proximal end and an opposed distal end,
5 said second bracket having at least one strike plate hole, aperture, loop, orifice or slot positioned near said proximal end thereof through or into which at least a portion of the screw, bolt, nail, pin, rivet or weld is capable of passing to secure the proximal end of the second bracket to the jamb, at
10 least a portion of said distal end of said second bracket extending outwardly away from the jamb and the strike plate, said barrier or stop element capable of selectively and removably engaging said second bracket near said distal end thereof.

15 23. The apparatus of claim 22, wherein said second bracket has at least one barrier hole, aperture, loop, orifice or slot positioned near said distal end thereof through or into which at least a portion of said barrier or stop element may be selectively inserted and retained.

20 24. A method for selectively barring or securing a hinged door or window against being pivoted from a closed or partially closed position to an open position, the door or window having at least one hinge and having a latch bolt or dead bolt adapted
25 to operatively secure the door or window to a jamb when in the closed position, the jamb having a strike plate capable of being secured or mounted to the jamb generally adjacent to the latch bolt or dead bolt when the door or window is in the closed position, the strike plate having a bolt hole, aperture or recess into which a portion of the latch bolt or dead bolt may
30 be received, the strike plate having at least one hole or aperture through which a screw, bolt, nail, pin, rivet or weld may pass to secure or mount the strike plate to the jamb, said method comprising the steps of:

35 (a) connecting an elongated first bracket having a proximal end and an opposed distal end to the jamb, said first bracket having at least one strike plate hole, aperture, loop, orifice or slot positioned near said proximal end thereof

through or into which at least a portion of the screw, bolt, nail, pin, rivet or weld is capable of passing to secure the proximal end of the first bracket to the jamb, at least a portion of said distal end of said first bracket extending outwardly away from the jamb and the strike plate; and

5 (b) selectively and removably engaging a barrier or stop element to said first bracket near said distal end thereof to at least partially block pivotal movement of the door or window relative to the strike plate when the door or window is in the closed or partially closed position and said barrier or stop element operatively engages said first bracket.

10 15 25. The method of claim 24, wherein the barrier or stop element includes a serial plurality of loops in a cord or cable, a first end of the barrier or stop element being attached to a cylindrical L-shaped rod, the method further including the steps of:

20 (c) passing the rod through one of the plurality of loops to form a larger loop; and
(d) placing the larger loop around a fixture attached to the door or window, thereby engaging the rod with the elongated first bracket.

25 26. The method of claim 24, wherein said first bracket has at least one barrier hole, aperture, loop, orifice or slot positioned near said distal end thereof through or into which at least a portion of said barrier or stop element may be 30 selectively inserted and retained.

27. The method of claim 24, wherein the hole in the elongated first bracket is vertical.

35 28. The method of claim 27, wherein the vertical hole has a triangular cross-section.

29. The method of claim 28, wherein the upper and lower ends of

the vertical hole are tapered.

30. The method of claim 28, wherein the vertical cylinder is retained by a horizontal pin.

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31. The method of claim 24, wherein the first bracket is held by a plurality of fasteners.

10 32. The method of claim 31, wherein the plurality of fasteners include two subpluralities of fasteners, a first subplurality being used closer to a door stop attached to the jamb, and a second subplurality being used farther from the door stop, the fasteners in the first subplurality being larger than the fasteners in the second subplurality.

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33. The method of claim 32, wherein the fasteners in the first and second subpluralities are difficult to remove once they are attached.

20 34. The method of claim 24, wherein the barrier or stop element includes a vertical cylindrical rod.

35. The method of claim 34, wherein the cylindrical rod has an engagement means at its lower end.

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36. The method of claim 34, wherein the cylindrical rod is L-shaped.

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37. The method of claim 36, wherein the upper end of the L-shaped rod includes means to limit the angle by which the L-shaped rod can swing relative to the cylindrical rod.

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38. The method of claim 34, wherein the vertical rod has an extension at its upper end, the extension being toward the door.

39. The method of claim 38, wherein the vertical rod includes a biased element to retain the vertical position of the vertical rod in the engaged position.

40. The method of claim 34, wherein the first bracket has an upper U-shaped portion to retain the vertical cylinder.

5 41. The method of claim 40, wherein the U-shaped portion is corrugated or flared to strengthen the U-shaped portion.

42. The method of claim 34, wherein the cylindrical rod has a projection that follows a path in the first bracket.

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43. The method of claim 24, wherein said barrier or stop element comprises a rigid or semi-rigid object which can be quickly and easily removed from engagement with the first bracket.

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44. The method of claim 43, wherein said barrier or stop element comprises a bar, bolt, padlock, pin, carabineer, clip, snap, snap shackle, shackle, hook, piton or screwdriver which is capable of being at least partially inserted into said first barrier hole, aperture or loop to at least partially block pivotal movement of the door or windows relative to the strike plate when the door or window is in the closed or partially closed position.

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45. The method of claim 24, further comprising an elongated second bracket having a proximal end and an opposed distal end, said second bracket having at least one strike plate hole, aperture, loop, orifice or slot positioned near said proximal end thereof through or into which at least a portion of the screw, bolt, nail, pin, rivet or weld is capable of passing to secure the proximal end of the second bracket to the jamb, at least a portion of said distal end of said second bracket extending outwardly away from the jamb and the strike plate, said barrier or stop element capable of selectively and removably engaging said second bracket near said distal end thereof.

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46. The method of claim 45, wherein said second bracket has at least one barrier hole, aperture, loop, orifice or slot

positioned near said distal end thereof through or into which at least a portion of said barrier or stop element may be selectively inserted and retained.

- 5 47. An apparatus for selectively barring or securing a hinged door or window against being pivoted from a closed or partially closed position to an open position, the door or window having at least one hinge and having a latch bolt or dead bolt adapted to operatively secure the door or window to a jamb when in the
10 closed position, the jamb having a strike plate capable of being secured or mounted to the jamb generally adjacent to the latch bolt or dead bolt when the door or window is in the closed position, the strike plate having a bolt hole, aperture or recess into which a portion of the latch bolt or dead bolt may
15 be received, the strike plate having at least one hole or aperture through which a screw, bolt, nail, pin, rivet or weld may pass to secure or mount the strike plate to the jamb, said apparatus comprising:
- (a) means for connecting an elongated first bracket having a proximal end and an opposed distal end to the jamb, said first bracket having at least one strike plate hole, aperture, loop, orifice or slot positioned near said proximal end thereof through or into which at least a portion of the screw, bolt, nail, pin, rivet or weld is capable of passing to secure the proximal end of the first bracket to the jamb, at least a portion of said distal end of said first bracket extending outwardly away from the jamb and the strike plate; and
- (b) means for selectively and removably engaging a barrier or stop element to said first bracket near said distal end thereof to at least partially block pivotal movement of the door or window relative to the strike plate when the door or window is in the closed or partially closed position and said barrier or stop element operatively engages said first bracket.

- 35 48. The apparatus of claim 47, wherein the barrier or stop element includes a serial plurality of loops in a cord or cable,

a first end of the barrier or stop element being attached to a cylindrical L-shaped rod, the apparatus further comprising:

(c) means for passing the rod through one of the plurality of loops to form a larger loop; and

- 5 (d) means for placing the larger loop around a fixture attached to the door or window, thereby engaging the rod with the elongated first bracket.